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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT,

TUESDAY, JULY 6, 2004

THIS REPORT WILL PRESENT A TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER THREE THEMES:

HEADLINES

BRIEFING

EDITORIAL OPINION

HEADLINES

MASS APPEAL

PM Allawi signals amnesty for Iraqi resisters - Aksam
Ms. El-Rahim the new face of Iraq in US - Hurriyet
Saddam's judge a US citizen - Aksam
Saddam studies law - Milliyet 7/5
Gen. Karpinski: Rumsfeld ordered torture - Milliyet 7/5
Halabja Kurds demand justice - Milliyet
Cheney's doctor a drug addict - Sabah
'TRNC' may go to early polls - Hurriyet
45 percent of Greek Cypriots against Turkey in EU - Milliyet
7/5
Greek Cypriot daily: Turkey to withdraw 5,000 troops - Sabah
7/5
Turks celebrate Greeks' European championship - Sabah
Milosevic's health deteriorates - Milliyet

OPINION MAKERS

Zana: We've turned a new page - Radikal
'Freedom Tower' the new symbol of US - Cumhuriyet 7/5
Iraq opposes peacekeeping troops from neighbors - Zaman
Iraq to disclose which neighbors aiding resistance -
Cumhuriyet 7/5
Negroponte can't remember his Honduras days - Cumhuriyet
Gen. Karpinski: Israelis involved in Iraq interrogations -
Aksam 7/5
Occupiers torture Iraqi children - Cumhuriyet
Es-Sadr calls for mass resistance - Yeni Safak
Fukuyama: Turkey a weak country - Cumhuriyet 7/5
Clerides: 'TRNC' may be recognized after December - Yeni
Safak

BRIEFING

Kurdish ex-lawmakers meet with EU ambassadors: Former DEP lawmakers headed by Leyla Zana gave a luncheon for EU ambassadors in Ankara yesterday. An official from the US Embassy also attended the lunch. Zana said the people in southeastern Turkey want to find a solution to their problems through peaceful dialogue. 'We don't want to repeat the sufferings of the past,' she said, adding that 'we want to turn a new page.' The EU ambassadors called on the ex-MPs to take a firmer position against terror. The Dutch Ambassador noted that Turkey is modernizing quickly and is moving toward a new future. Zana urged the EU to grant Turkey a date for entry talks. She argued that both Kurds and Turks need Europe.

A civilian to chair NSC for the first time: The AK Party government, the Presidency and the Turkish General Staff (TGS) have agreed to appoint Turkey's permanent UN representative, Ambassador Umit Pamir, as the new National Security Council (NSC) Secretary General. The appointment will be announced at the High Military Council meeting scheduled for August 1-4.

Closure of northern Iraqi refugee camp suspended: The agreement reached last January by Turkey, the US, UNHCR and Iraq to close the Mahmur refugee camp in northern Iraq has not been implemented due to a lack of follow-up by the US and the Iraqis, "Hurriyet" reports. Letters of confirmation from Secretary Powell and the Iraqi interim government have not been received by Ankara. The agreement has now been 'suspended,' diplomatic sources told "Hurriyet." "Armenians will not forget the genocide": Monday's "Radikal" featured an interview with Hrant Dink, editor-in-chief of Turkey's prestigious Armenian daily, "Agos." Dink said that some in the Armenian diaspora may regard friendship with Turkey as treasonous. Consequently, there is a need for a normalization of relations between the two countries before friendship with Turkey becomes realistic. Dink claimed that the majority of Turks and Armenians, with the exception of 'marginal' nationalists in both countries,

want the border between the two countries reopened. . He added that Armenia wants diplomatic ties established with Turkey, and has committed to unconditional talks. . Armenian President Kocharian has made it clear that Yerevan has no territorial demands from Turkey. Dink stressed that Yerevan has never asked Ankara to recognize the Armenian genocide. 'That demand is voiced only by our diaspora,' he said. Dink acknowledged that most Armenians support the call to recognize the genocide, because the tragic events of that period are 'part of our historic drama.' . Dink said that a recognition of the genocide by Ankara would allow Turkey to make a strategic opening to the Caucasus. He urged Turkey to establish a bridge to the countries of the Caucasus so that Armenia will gain a more European, Western character. . Dink noted that the EU has given the countries of the Caucasus a special 'neighboring' status with the EU, and speculated that this status may one day be turned into full EU membership. Dink said that Armenians in the diaspora should not insist that Turkey or any other country recognize the genocide. . However, Turkey must show the world that it is not afraid of discussing the incident. 'We don't need the issue to be discussed in the US or French parliaments,' Dink said. 'It should be discussed here in Turkey.' Dink said he was pleased by recent signs of normalization between the two countries. . He lamented the fact that while in the early days of the Turkish Republic there were 300,000 Armenians in Turkey, today there are just 60,000. . Dink complained that Turkey's official curriculum does not recognize the existence of different cultures in this country. He stressed that the Turkish state has always regarded its minorities as a security issue, and noted that Turkish textbooks teach Armenian children about the treason of the Armenians. Despite the hardships, Dink said he would never want to leave Turkey. . He warned that if Turkey delays too long in establishing ties with Armenia, Yerevan may draw closer to Russia."

EDITORIAL OPINION: Saddam's Trial

"Even Dictators Need Law"

Ali Sirmen commented in the social democrat-opinion maker Cumhuriyet (7/6): "The trial of Saddam causes us to think about the definition of law. Every discipline and every legal system does not necessarily make a lawful society, unless each piece of the legal frame complies with the rules of international law and order. The same rule applies to courts that try dictators. Any court under the supervision of an occupying force suffers from the absence of legitimacy. Even the trial of a dictator does not make an exception to this rule. The Iraqi court is asking Saddam about the Halabja massacre. What about those who provided chemical weapons to Saddam? Who is going to sue them? ... In a similar vein, what about the trial of the Abu Ghraib torturers by an Iraqi court? ... In short, the court case in Baghdad represents a mockery of justice. On the other hand, even this comedy does not mitigate the fact that Saddam is a brutal dictator and a murderer. Any irregularity in the legal process for Saddam's trial will become a model for the future of the Iraqi regime. This trial must not be allowed to turn into an exercise in historic revenge. A vindictive process outside the proper legal framework might end up turning a bloody dictator into a martyr or a hero in the mind of the public. Unfortunately, this appears to be happening in the case of Saddam."

"The Trial of Saddam"

Turgut Tarhanli wrote in the liberal-intellectual Radikal (7/6): "The court in Iraq has the authority to sentence Saddam Hussein death. Therefore it is vitally important that the Iraqi court obeys international human rights standards without exception. Take the similar cases in Yugoslavia and Rwanda. Those who were held responsible for genocide and other violations of human rights did not face death sentences because of international legal standards. These two cases are also regarded as examples for other cases that fall within the context of international human rights. The Iraq case seems to be an effort to establish an exception to this international trend. This is probably the reason that an international court was not established for the trial of Saddam. It seems that the process in the trial of Saddam ignores a basic rule -- legitimate justice must be supported by commonly held tenets of fairness."

EDELMAN